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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/572,991	01/10/2007	Graham Francois Duirs	JAMES116.001APC	9007
20995 7590 10/27/2010 KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP 2040 MAIN STREET FOURTEENTH FLOOR IRVINE, CA 92614			EXAMINER BOSQUES, EDELMIRA	
			ART UNIT 3767	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 10/27/2010	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/572,991	Applicant(s) DUIRS, GRAHAM FRANCOIS	
	Examiner EDELMIRA BOSQUES	Art Unit 3767	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32,33 and 38-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32,33 and 38-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 8, 2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 32-33, 38-41 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin (US 2498374).

Regarding claim 32, Martin teaches a method of treating a teat of an animal comprising: inserting a device (6) through an orifice of the teat (See Fig.3) and into a teat streak canal during involution; and retaining the device in position within the teat streak canal without any part of the device penetrating outwards beyond an epithelium of the teat orifice (See Fig. 5, Refer to col. 4, lines 1-24).

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Regarding claim 33, Martin teaches delivering one or more treatment substances to the teat streak canal (Refer to col.4 Lines 19-24).

Regarding claim 38, Martin teaches wherein the retaining comprises retaining the device within the teat streak canal for a time (Refer to col. 4, lines 17-19) *which would be sufficient for the device to integrate with endogenous keratin to form a composite plug.*

Regarding claim 39, Martin teaches degrading the device within the teat streak canal over time (Refer to col. 4, lines 18-20).

Regarding claim 40, Martin teaches the device acts as a physical barrier to prevent unwanted passage of substances through the teat streak canal (the device is capable to acts as a barrier to prevent unwanted passage of substances through the streak canal).

Regarding claim 41, Martin teaches milking the animal and ceasing milking the animal prior to the inserting (Refer to col. 3, lines 62-74); drying off after the inserting; and retaining the device within the teat streak canal after a build up in milk pressure that occurs immediately after the-drying off without the device being ejected.

Regarding claim 48, Martin teaches the device does not extend into a teat cistern (See Fig. 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 43-45 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin (US 2498374) in view of Gordhamer (US 3821956).

Regarding claims 43-45, Martin fails to specifically disclose the retaining is enhanced by one or more surface features of the device, wherein said one or more surface features include one or more grooves and a spiral thread. Gordhamer teaches a device (Fig. 1) to be inserted in the teat duct, being retained in the duct, the retaining is enhanced by one or more surface features of the device, wherein said one or more surface features include one or more grooves (30, 20) and a spiral thread (13) (Refer to col. 2, lines 60-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add grooves or a spiral treads to Martin's device as disclosed by Gordhamer to improve the holding power in the teat and improve the introduction of therapeutical drugs into the milk duct.

Regarding claim 47, modified Martin teaches the inserting of the device occurs with minimal dislodgement of keratin (*as a consequence of the insertion of the device as described in Martin's method, minimal keratin dislodgement occurs*).

Claims 43 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin (US 2498374) in view of Child (US 4385633).

Regarding claims 43 and 46 Martin fails to specifically disclose the retaining is enhanced by one or more surface features of the device including a plurality of protrusions. Child teaches a device for insertion into a teat canal, the device having the retaining enhanced by one or more surface features of the device including a plurality of protrusions (37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a plurality of protrusions to Martin's device as disclosed by Child to improve the holding power in the teat and improve the introduction of therapeutical drugs into the milk duct.

Regarding claim 47, modified Martin teaches the inserting of the device occurs with minimal dislodgement of keratin (*as a consequence of the insertion of the device as described in Martin's method, minimal keratin dislodgement occurs*).

Claims 32 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (US 2244027) in view of Martin (US 2498374).

Regarding claim 32, Smith teaches a method of treating a teat of an animal comprising: inserting a device (10) through an orifice of the teat (Refer to column 2, lines 25-27) and into a teat streak canal during involution; and retaining the device in position within the teat streak canal (Refer to col. 2, line 30). However Smith fails to specifically disclose retaining the device in position within the teat streak canal **without any part of the device penetrating outwards beyond an epithelium of the teat orifice** (See Fig. 5, Refer to col. 4, lines 1-24). Martin teaches a method of treating a teat of an animal comprising: inserting a device (6) through an orifice of the teat (See Fig.3) and into a teat streak canal during involution; and retaining the device in position within the teat streak canal without any part of the device penetrating outwards beyond an epithelium of the teat orifice (See Fig. 5, Refer to col. 4, lines 1-24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to retaining the device in position within the teat streak canal without any part of the device penetrating outwards beyond an epithelium of the teat orifice as disclosed by Martin, with Smith's method to relieve soreness in animals teats without impeding flow through the teat.

Regarding claim 42, modified Smith teaches method for inserting a device (10) through an orifice of the teat, and dislodging (remove from a position) the device from the teat streak canal by milk pressure generated as a consequence of lactogenesis (Refer to column 2, lines 28-30).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 32-33 and 38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDELMIRA BOSQUES whose telephone number is (571)270-5614. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (10:00am-4:00pm) every other Friday Off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin C. Sirmons can be reached on (571)-272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/EDELMIRA BOSQUES/
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